Announcement at Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, 2005

3284. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister in his speech at the last Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, 2005 has announced the granting of dual citizenship and participation of NRIs and PIOs in the development of aviation sector in India;

(b) if so, whether so far only NRIs have been allowed bring 100% FDI in aviation sector; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for creating discrimination for PIOs who want to use FDI to supplement their own 100% investment of India in domestic aviation sector; and

(d) whether Government will clear the discrimination between NRIs and PIOs and allow both NRIs as well as PIOs to invest 100% in aviation sector (including domestic airless) before the next Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in January, 2006 and it not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. PM had announced the granting of dual citizenship (Overseas Citizenship of India) at PBD 2005. PM had talked of measures undertaken in the Civil Aviation Sector in terms of modernization of airports, opening up of skies for private airlines, etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As pe existing policy, NRIs are eligible to invest upto 100% in Air Transport Service (Domestic Airlines) under the automatic route. However, Persons of Indian Origin (PsIO) have not been able to avail this facility, as the guidelines of the Ministry of Civil aviation stipulate that a scheduled/ non-scheduled air transport operator's permit can be granted only to a citizen of India or to a company/ body corporate provided, *inter alia*, that substantial ownership and effective control is vested in Indian nationals.

(d) Parity of PIO cardholders with NRIs in regard to investment in the Civil Aviation sector is under consideration of the Ministries concerned.

Communal harmony in Pravasi Bharatiya meet

3285. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subject of communal harmony is included in Pravasi Bharatiya Meet Scheduled in January, 2006; and

(b) If not, the reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir

(b) PBD focuses issues of interest to overseas Indian and one their engagement in India's development. The participation of delegates from across the world irrespective of their religious, cultural and ethnic diversities symbolizes communal harmony in practice at the global level. It has, therefore, not been thought necessary to have a session on communal harmony, as such, during PBD'06.

Comprehensive legislation for reservation in services

3286. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite repeated recommendations in reports, Government had failed to enact a comprehensive legislation on reservation in services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the relaxations and concessions provided to the SCs/STs did not make much impact as the shortfall in various posts reserved for them still exists; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The Government has already introduced the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill, 2004 in the Rajya Sabha.

(c) and (d) As a result of reservation and relaxations and concessions available to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Government Services (excluding sweepers) as on 1.1.2003 is 16.52 per cent and 6.46 per cent respectively. Some posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, however, remain vacant for reasons like non-availability of suitable candidates belonging to these categories etc. There is also generally a time gap between occurence of vacancies and filling up thereof.